

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3983

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL

1. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION (AT A SMALL LUNCHEON HE WAS GIVING TUESDAY, MAY 20, IN HONOR OF VISITING TIME MANAGING EDITOR ANATOLE GUNWALD), FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL DECLARED THAT HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE ROME MEETINGS AND CONFIDENT THAT THE GREEK TURKISH DIALOGUE NOW UNDERWAY "WOULD PRODUCE A RESULT." UNFORTUNATELY, HE DID NOT ELABORATE ON THIS AS TIME'S LOCAL TURKISH STRINGER JOINED THE GROUP AT THIS POINT AND THE FONMIN ABRUPTLY SHIFTED TO OTHER SUBJECTS. HOWEVER, IN AN ASIDE WITH HIS AIDE, I WAS ADVISED THAT CAGLAYANGIL WAS NOT SIMPLY SAYING THIS FOR AMERICAN EARS BUT WAS IN FACT VERY PLEASED AND DEFINITELY HOPEFUL AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE ROME MEETINGS. CAGLAYANGIL'S AIDE (SEMIH AKBIL, MFA PRESS SPOKESMAN) CONTINUED THAT IT WAS CAGLAYANGIL'S VIEW THAT BITSIOS CAME AWAY WITH A SIMILAR REACTION. BOTH MEN, HE ASSERTED, HAD USED THE MEETING AS A "FEELING OUT" EXERCISE, AND IT WAS THE TURK IMPRESSION THAT BOTH HAD LIKED WHAT THEY ENCOUNTERED. AKBIL SAID, HOWEVER, THAT GOT SPOKESMEN WERE GOING TO LOW KEY THEIR OPTIMISM IN DEALING WITH THEIR OWN MEDIA IN ORDER TO GUARD AGAINST LETDOWNS LATER ON. AKBIL ALSO CONFIRMED THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT IN THE COMMUNIQUE, THE TWO MINISTERS HAD REACHED AN AGREEMENT THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE CHIEFS OF GOVT WOULD DEFINITELY MEET IN BRUSSELS. THIS WOULD TAKE PLACE AFTER BITSIOS AND

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CAGLAYANGIL HAD RECONVENED THEIR OWN MEETING THERE.

2. LATER DURING THE LUNCHEON, GUNWALD, ON A BACKGROUND BASIS, PROBED CAGLAYANGIL ABOUT THE BASICS OF A CYPRUS SOLUTION. CAGLAYANGIL'S RESPONSE WAS ALONG LINES WITH WHICH YOU ARE FAMILIAR BUT WAS NOTABLE IN ITS LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR REFUGEE RETURN, AND HIS STATEMENT THAT TURKEY HAD SOME, "BUT VERY LITT," FLEXIBILITY AS TO TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS.

3. GUNWALD AT THAT POINT SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD IT ASSERTED THAT UNTIL

THERE WAS A GOT ELECTION, THERE WOULD NOT BE A GOVT IN TURKEY STRONG ENOUGH TO REAC A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. CAGLAYANGIL REACTED VERY STRONGLY TO THIS COMMENT. HE SAID HE DID NOT RPT NOT AGREE WITH IT AND THAT A RESOLUTION COULD NOT RPT NOT WAIT FOR THE NEXT ELECTIONS. WHAT BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY NEEDED, HE SAID, WAS A "QUICK RESOLUTION." THIS WOULD REQUIRE BOLDNESS ON THE PART OF PRESENT LEADERS AND HE EMPHASIZED IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THIS BOLDNESS BE FORTHCOMING.

4. AFTER LUNCH THE CONVERSATION TUNRED TO YESTERDAY'S SENATE VOTE. ALTHOUGH PLEASED THAT THE SENATE HAD ACTED AFFIRMATIVELY, CAGLAYANGIL WAS OBVIOUSLY DISTURBED AND SHAKEN BY THE NARROW ONE-VOTE MARGIN BY WHICH IT WAS ACCOMPLISHED. HIS REPEATED QUESTION WAS THAT IF THERE WAS ONLY ONE VOTE MARGIN IN THE SENATE WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO BE MUCH THE EASIER OF THE TWO HOUSES, HOW COULD THE GOT NOW HAVE ANY RAL HOPE FOR A PROMPT AND SUCCESSFUL VOTE IN THE HOUSE? I SAID THAT WHILE I HAD NOT RECEIVED A FULLY REPORT YET, I STRONGLY SUSPECTED THAT THERE WERE MORE FAVORABLE VOTES AVAILABLE TO THE SENATE LEADERS IF THESE HAD BEEN NEEDED, AND IN THAT SENSE THE SENATE VOTE WAS ISLEADING. I ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION COULD HAVE HELD OFF THE VOTE FOR SOME DAYS OR SOME WEEKS AND, THROUGH ITS WORK IN THAT INTERIM PERIOD, COULD HAVE MORE THAN LIKELY PRODUCED A CONSIDERABLY STRONGER RESULT. I WAS SURE, HOWEVER, THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS INTERESTED IN THE BASIC RESULT, NOT HOW THE VOTE LOOKED. I ADDED THAT I PERSONALLY FELT THE IMPOTANT THING WAS TO MOVE AS SOON AS THE VOTE COULD BE WON RATHER THAN TO WAIT FOR A LONGER PERIOD SIMPLY TO WIN IT MORE CONVINCINGLY. I EMPHASIZED THAT WE WERE NOW HALFWAY HOME AND THAT FROM HERE ON WE COULD DEVOTE ALL OUR EFFORTS TO THE HOUSE. I WAS SURE, I SAID, THAT YOU AND THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE LEADING A MAJOR EFFORT THERE STARTING AS SOON AS

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THE NATO SUMMIT MEETING WAS OVER, AND I EXPECTED TO BE PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN THIS AS WELL.

5. I SAID THAT WE WERE GOING TO NEED SOME TIME TO ACCOMPLISH THE RESULT WE WANTED IN THE HOUSE BUT THAT I WAS CONFIDENT THAT WITH TIME WE WOULD BE ABLE TO DO THIS. AT THE END OF OUR DISCUSSION, GUNWALD WEIGHED IN STRONGLY TO SUPPORT WHAT I HAD SAID ABOUT TIME IN THE END PRODUCING THE CORRECT RESULT. CAGLAYANGIL REMAINED VERY SKEPTICAL BUT

DID OFFER, AS A CONCLUDING COMMENT, THAT HIS MIDDLE NAME WAS SABRI, WHICH IN TURKISH MEANS PATIENCE.

6. COMMENT: FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES TODAY ARE BEING VERY CLOSE-MOURED ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE ROME TALKS EITHER BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT YET BEEN DEBRIEFED, OR BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN PUT UNDER WRAPS. IN ANY EVENT, A DETAILED EXPOSITION OF THE TURKISH ASSESSMENT WILL LIKELY HAVE TO AWAIT YOUR MEETING WITH CAGLAYANGIL THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

7. EVERYONE IN THIS EMBASSY IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THE STRENUOUS AND EFFECTIVE EFFORT THAT WAS MADE IN CONNECTION WITH THE SENATE VOTE. DESPITE OUR SATISFACTION WITH THE OUTCOME, HOWEVER, THE ONE-VOTE MARGIN UNDERMINES SOME OF THE ADVANTAGE WE WOULD NORMALLY HAVE REAPED IF THE RESULT HAD BEEN SLIGHTLY LESS RAZOR-THIN. MANY TURKS, KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE RELATIVE SENATE AND HOUSE PROSPECTS, ARE DRAWING PESSIMISTIC CONCLUSIONS RE THE FUTURE. AS A CONSEQUENCE, WE ARE HEARING MORE TODAY OF TURKISH CONCERN, THAN OF SATISFACTION, OVER THE OUTCOME.

8. ONE OF THE IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES OF YOUR FORTHCOMING VISIT SHOULD THEREFORE BE, I BELIEVE, TO CONVINCING TURK LEADERS THAT JUST AS THE ADMINISTRATION TURNED THINGS AROUND IN THE SENATE, IT HAS A REAL CHANCE, GIVEN TIME, OF DOING THE SAME THING IN THE HOUSE. IT WOULD SEEM THAT AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT COROLLARY TO THIS WOULD BE EMPHASIZING TO THE TURKS THAT THE REASON THE VOTE WAS WON IN THE SENATE WAS THE CONVICTION ON THE PART OF MANY OF ITS MEMBERS THAT THIS WOULD NOW FACILITATE GREATER TURKISH FLEXIBILITY AND PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS -- AND THAT FOR US TO CONTINUE TO WIN VOTES BY WHATEVER MARGIN IT IS IMPORTANT FOR TURKISH ACTIONS TO DEMONSTRATE THE TRUTH OF THIS ARGUMENT.

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